

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

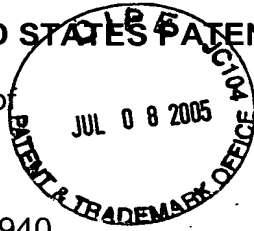
In re Patent Application of

Masashi Isono

Application No.: 10/706,940

Filed: November 14, 2003

For: TAKING LENS SYSTEM



MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Group Art Unit: 2873

Examiner: EVELYN A LESTER

Confirmation No.: 7417

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 8, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Claims 1 and 3-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, on the basis of the newly-cited Shinohara patent (U.S. 6,795,253). The Office Action states that the rejection on the basis of this patent is considered to be proper because Applicant had not yet perfected the claim for foreign priority.

In response thereto, a verified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-331617, filed November 15, 2002, is being submitted herewith. The priority of the earlier-filed Japanese application was claimed in the original Declaration of the inventor as well as a separate paper filed concurrently with the application. It is respectfully submitted that the verified translation confirms that the earlier-filed Japanese application supports the subject matter claimed in the present application.

Since the filing date of the Japanese priority application preceeds the U.S. filing date of the Shinohara patent, it is respectfully submitted that the Shinohara patent does not qualify as prior art against the present application. Withdrawal of the rejection based upon the Shinohara patent is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected on the basis of obviousness-type double patenting, in view of claims 1 and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,744,570. In response thereto, a Terminal Disclaimer is being submitted herewith, to remove the basis for the rejection.


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentable over the references of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: July 8, 2005

By: _____



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